

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming apparatus main body in which an ejection ~~unit-tray~~ is provided at an upper portion thereof;

a recording medium storage section arranged along a substantially horizontal direction;

a transport path for transporting a recording medium supplied from the recording medium storage section along a substantially vertical direction, and for ejecting the transported recording medium to the ejection ~~unit-tray~~ of the image forming apparatus main body; ~~body, the ejection tray storing the ejected recording medium;~~

an image carrier;

an optical writing section for forming an electrostatic latent image on the image carrier; and

a developing section for developing the electrostatic latent image formed on the image carrier to produce a visible image, wherein

the developing section owns a developer storage space, which includes a first developer storage portion and a second developer storage portion, for storing ~~therein to~~ developer;

the developer ~~being is~~ dropped from the first developer storage portion to the second developer storage portion; and

a developer housing including the second developer storage portion is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box including the first developer storage portion;

the ejection tray is disposed in an upper part of the developer replenishment box;

an upper surface housing of the developer replenishment box inclines in substantially the same direction as the ejection tray inclines; and

a latent image writing position of the image carrier written by the optical writing section is located lower than at least a portion of the developer storage space along the vertical direction.

2. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the optical writing ~~apparatus is~~section comprises a scanning type laser exposing apparatus, and

the scanning type laser exposing apparatus is arranged along the substantially horizontal direction.

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the optical writing ~~apparatus is~~section is arranged on the side of a front surface of the image forming apparatus main body within the image forming apparatus main body.

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a control board is arranged between the ejection ~~unit~~tray of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing ~~apparatus~~section.

5. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

an interface board is arranged between the ejection ~~unit~~tray of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing ~~apparatus~~section.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a developer storage vessel that stores therein to the developer arranged between the ejection ~~unit~~tray of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus-section.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the developer storage space owns a window portion which constitutes an optical scanning path defined from the optical writing section to the image carrier.

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

the first developer storage portion is arranged at an upper portion thereof, and the second developer storage portion is arranged at a lower portion thereof, while the window portion is set to a boundary.

9. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

at least a portion of the optical writing apparatus-section is arranged to be overlapped with respect to the developer storage space along a direction in parallel to an optical axis of incident light to the image carrier.

10-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ejection tray is freely pivotable.

26. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a process cartridge containing the image carrier, a cleaning device and the developing section, wherein

the cleaning device removes developer remaining on the image carrier; and

the process cartridge includes a third developer storage portion into which the developer removed by the cleaning device is deposited.

27. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 26, wherein a first unit of the process cartridge, which includes the image carrier, the cleaning device and the third developer storage portion, is detachable from a second unit of the process cartridge, which includes the developing section.